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Serial No.: 10/008,281

REMARKS***I. CLAIM OBJECTIONS***

Claim 18 is objected to due to certain informalities. Claim 18 has been canceled.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 10, 18, 19, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as failing to particularly point out an distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to eliminate the ambiguity referenced by the examiner.

Claims 18-22 have been canceled.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 18 – 22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on being unpatentable over US 2003/00233691 to Knauerhase in view of US. 6,253,088 to Wenk et al.

Claims 18-22 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has indicated that claims 1 and 10 would be allowable after overcoming the 35 USC 112 rejection. The applicant thanks the examiner.


Claims 2-5, 9, and 11-14 each depend from one of claims 1 and can be distinguished over Knauerhase and Wenk et al for at least the same reasons.

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Accordingly, claims 1-5, and 9-14 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. O'Hagan
Reg. No. 39,319

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Timothy P. O'Hagan
8710 Kilkenny Ct
Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239) 561-2300